



On Campus

A monthly publication for the faculty and staff of Greenfield Community College

January 1993

Letter from the president

A new year, a new administration bring new opportunities

As 1993 begins, we have many things to celebrate as a college! For the first time since my arrival at GCC five years ago this month, we can truly plan for the future rather than remain preoccupied with the survival issues of the past several years. The vitality and excitement of a new semester is this year coupled with the energy of a new administration in Washington that recognizes the importance of education and appreciates the role of America's community colleges in contributing to our economic strength as a nation.

As you are aware, our 18 percent growth in total FTE since 1988 and our day enrollment increase of 25 percent have put pressure on our staffing and facilities. The good news is that during the past few weeks, both our board of trustees and our Foundation Board have voted to proceed with a plan to enclose the front patio as the location for a new Welcoming Center. We plan to locate "front-end" services here—information, admissions, student records, financial aid, placement and GED testing, community service, business and industry. In addition, we believe that we can enclose

Reorganization, plans for building addition, capital campaign move ahead

the balcony of the library at the same time to capture additional space for that area. We are awaiting a final go ahead from the Division of Capital Planning in Boston. If that approval comes within the next few weeks, as we expect, we are on target for a January 1994 occupancy.

I will very shortly name a broadly representative college committee to review additional space needs in the college and to make recommendations to me concerning how we may best utilize the space vacated by those offices that will move to the Welcoming Center. This study will become part of our new strategic plan and will become a blueprint for additional renovations during the next several years.

The Foundation board has just agreed to undertake a feasibility study for a major capital campaign for the college. Within the next few months, we will receive advice from an outside consultant

about how to approach a major campaign—how much money we could seek, the appropriate timing, and which projects are most likely to receive donor support. At this point, we are testing the market for a college fund-raising campaign that would fund construction of the Welcoming Center and would support the purchase of major equipment for laboratories and studios. **Charlie Carter**, who is heading this project, and I will keep you informed on this exciting undertaking.

At its January meeting, our board of trustees also approved the final phase of the organizational plan that will bring about a "one-college concept" and will enable us to pursue student outcomes assessment much more seriously. **Ira Rubenzahl**, as dean of academic affairs, assisted by the academic staff, is now responsible for all credit course activity of the college, including evening and summer school courses. Beginning in March, **Larry Dean** will focus his efforts as assistant academic dean on student assessment and will work on developing the most effective uses for the new Student Information Sys-

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People

Laurie Downes, professor of nursing, is returning from a maternity leave. Her daughter **Kara** was born in late October.

Jeff Galbraith, assistant professor of business, has been elected to the board of directors of the Franklin Medical Center for 1993. Jeff, who lives in Greenfield, is pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in addition to teaching at GCC.

Mary Ellen Kelly, coordinator of the writing assistance program, **Phyllis Nahman**, coordinator of the English program, and **Peter Rosnick**, professor of mathematics, have been selected to make a presentation titled "Problem Solving Within a Learning Community of Developmental Math, Reading and Writing Courses" at Bentley College on February 12. Their presentation is part of the Massachusetts Faculty Development Consortium's conference on "Involvement in Learning: Implications for Students and Faculty".

Judith Kinley, professor of nursing, is on a partial education leave while she completes requirements for a second master's degree. She is a student in ethics at the Harvard University Divinity School.

Media Production Specialist **Dennis Koonz** attended the national conference and Infocomm Exposition of the Association for Education and Communication Technology, held in New

Orleans January 12-17.

Frank "Skeeter" Peterson began working at GCC January 13 as the new HVAC technician. A graduate of Frontier Regional High School, he is a former member of the Local 64 Pipefitters Union, where he spent most of his five-year apprenticeship working at the University of Massachusetts and Deerfield Academy. Beginning in 1974 he spent nine years as chief pipefitter for Esleek Paper Co. in Turners Falls. Since then he has worked as a service technician with Economy Plumbing and Heating of Keene and for seven years with HFP Piping in South Hadley. He then opened his own company, Peterson Heating and Air Conditioning Inc., where he worked until he was hired by GCC. He has twin sons, Jeremy and Michael. Skeeter can be reached at extension 210.

David Rice has been hired as a full-time chemistry instructor for the spring semester. Since 1987 David has been the director of the Polymer NMR laboratory at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has taught chemistry courses at UMass and has served as a research scientist at Cornell University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His campus extension will be 360.

Jean Simmons, professor of nursing, is chairing a major committee of the nursing education advisory committee of the state Board of Registra-

tion in Nursing.

Nancy Winter, coordinator of the early childhood education program, was a presenter at the National Association for the Education of Young Children's annual conference in New Orleans November 12. Dr. Margaret Varma of Rutgers University was a co-presenter with Nancy. Their topic was "Family Life Education for Peace". The conference is attended by more than 22,000 early childhood educators from across the country and throughout the world.

Rob Yacubian, coordinator of transfer, did a lot of moving between semesters. After visiting his niece in Paris for Christmas, he traveled to Florida to visit an aunt. He returned to campus for a few days in January just long enough to move his office to C233, swapping with **Herb Hentz**, director of diversity and assistant director of admissions. Then he was off to Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico to see his sister. Rob wants to be sure that all students know that his office has moved to the Division of Continuing Education suite—please pass the word. His new telephone extension is 273. Herb will have Rob's old extension of 238—please make a note of it!

Send news of your personal and professional accomplishments to **Russell Powell** for the next edition of *On Campus*. Deadline is Wednesday, February 17.

Coming attractions —

Sunday, February 21

The culture, environment and economy of the former Soviet Union will be the focus of a special 30th anniversary symposium on Sunday, February 21, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Sloan Theater.

Alumnus **Peter Freisem** will present a slide show and answer questions about his 1991 bicycle trip around Russia's "Golden Ring," which put him in close contact with Russian people, history and architecture. He will be joined during the afternoon by **Larry Buell**, professor of outdoor leadership, and economics professor **Martha Kimball**.

Buell traveled throughout the former Soviet Union for four months in 1991. Working with several grassroots organizations, he trekked through remote villages and countryside. He will discuss the environmental challenges facing the region today, and will use poetry and traditional Russian music to describe his experiences.

Kimball will discuss her time as a teacher in Gomel, Belarus (an independent state of the former Soviet Union). She traveled there in the spring of 1992 as part of GCC's exchange program with the Consumers' Cooperative Institute of Poltava (CCIP) in the Ukraine. The CCIP is one of eight institutions with whom GCC has agreed, with Berkshire, Holyoke and Springfield Technical community colleges, to an education, technical,

faculty and student exchange program. Kimball's presentation will focus on business in the former Soviet Union, and how Russia is making the transition to a market economy.

A reception will follow. Admission is \$4 for the general public, \$2 for faculty, staff and alumni, and \$1 for current students. For more information, contact the alumni office at 774-3131, extension 270.

Friday, February 26 and Monday, March 1

Dr. **Daphne Duval Harrison**, author of *Black Pearls: Blues Queens of the 1920s*, and baritone **Daniel Comegys** will appear in the Sloan Theater on Friday, February 26 as part of Black History Month. At noon, Harrison will lecture on "Who's Got the Blues—And Why?" Comegys will give a lecture and demonstration on Afro/American influences on classical music at both 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Harrison and Comegys will present an evening of music and commentary, "The Art of Black Song," on Monday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m., also in the Sloan Theater. Harrison will provide the commentary, and Comegys will sing accompanied by **George Soulos**, professor of music, on piano. A reception will follow in the art gallery.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Fitness center expands hours for spring semester

The Fitness Center has new hours for the spring semester. Val Knowlton, director of safety and security, now supervises the center Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for faculty and staff who wish to use the exercise machines after regular work hours.

People interested in these times should first make an appointment with John Palmer, coordinator of the fitness programs (extension 352), for an orientation. The orientation will take about 30 minutes and can be scheduled during the Fitness Center's regular weekday hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Regular hours for the spring semester resume on Thursday, January 28.

The Fitness Center also has several wellness videos available for viewing while people exercise, on such topics as stress management, nutrition and the environment. For details, see John Palmer.

Have some news of interest to fellow employees? A special event, an unusual talent, recognition by your peers? Have you gotten married, had a baby, won an Oscar, earned a degree, become a roller skating champion or proficient at Parcheesi? Let us know, and we'll get it into the next issue of *On Campus*. Deadline: Wednesday, February 17—send items to Russell Powell.

Tri-County Partnership gathers data on alcohol and drug abuse

For the first time, people in Berkshire, Franklin and Hampshire counties are gaining Tri-County Partnership, a federal grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), has been housed at GCC since May 1992. The Partnership carries out its mission of reducing alcohol and other drug abuse by helping citizens and agencies create healthy communities. In Berkshire, Greater Franklin and Hampshire counties, there are county boards composed of representatives from community-based groups and agencies who meet monthly. One goal of the Tri-County Partnership is to leave a legacy of three self-sustaining county boards capable of making prevention plans addressing each county's specific needs.

Project ADAPT publishes "Days of Minds and Roses"

"Days of Minds and Roses: A Datebook for Conscious Living," has been published by Project ADAPT (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Training). In addition to listing important events at the college, the datebook is designed to give GCC students practical information, plus epigrams, quotations, proverbs, passages, quizzes and comments about drugs, alcohol and "conscious living," says Project ADAPT Coordinator **Jeff Coulson**.

"We make choices everyday about what we eat

In December, the Hampshire Alcohol/Drug Abuse Prevention Partnership (HADAPP) board released the results of the youth drug survey of 1,442 students across the county which show a significant level of alcohol and other drug use. In the survey, 11 percent of eighth graders, 30 percent of tenth graders and 35 percent of 12th graders said they had, at least once in the two weeks prior to the survey, consumed five or more drinks in a row. In Hampshire County, HADAPP coordinator **Risa Silverman** will be working with local communities to find local, do-able solutions to the issue.

Last April, the Greater Franklin County Partnership board held a press conference to announce their survey results. **Paul Luther**, coordina-

and drink, how we spend our time and with whom, and what we want to do," Coulson says. "The datebook is designed to give students something think about as they make those choices."

The datebook will be made available at various locations around the college, including the Learning Assistance Center, library, fitness center and bookstore, as well as the Project ADAPT office. A \$1 donation is being asked for the book, with 25 percent of the proceeds to benefit the Franklin Area Survival Center.

tor for Franklin County, has been providing support and resources to the community groups involved in taking action to address making communities healthier places for all citizens.

Berkshire County representatives are meeting to discuss the data for North County and **Bob Hulse**, the Berkshire County coordinator, and a broad-based group of school, law enforcement and citizens will be looking at releasing their data in February.

"We have never had any alcohol and other drug abuse youth survey information in any of the three counties!" says Tri-County Director **Judy Sopenski**, "nor have there been the resources to support local and regional solutions to these issues."

For people at GCC, "this means that you can have access to this information and more," Judy says. In the Tri-County Partnership office in the DCE suite on the second floor (Room 226B), you can ask her or **Bonnie Hoffman** for a copy of last year's Franklin County survey or the current Hampshire County youth survey as well as a new information sheet on adolescent binge drinking. ("This may prove to be a good conversation starter in your own home," Judy says.)

"If you are interested in working in your local community, please allow us to connect you with our working committees," she adds.

GCC's enrollment growth since 1988 second highest in state system

GCC had the second largest full-time equivalent (FTE) student increase among the state's 15 community colleges from 1988 to 1992, according to the most recent enrollment report by the state Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC). Only Mount Wachusett Community College experienced greater growth than GCC's 18.1 percent during this four-year period.

The HECC report contains numerous enrollment statistics for community colleges in general and GCC in particular. Among the highlights:

- 42 percent of all students in public higher education attend community colleges;
- Community colleges have the greatest FTE enrollment of any segment—36.7 percent;
- 56 percent of all minority students in public higher education attend community

colleges;

- 45 percent of all women enrolled in public higher education attend community colleges;
- GCC's percent of minority students—5.7 percent—has increased dramatically since 1988 but is still one-third of the community college average of 16.7 percent;
- GCC's percent of full-time students—48.7 percent—is among the highest in the community college segment. Only Massachusetts Bay and Roxbury are higher;
- GCC's percentage of female students—62.7 percent—is slightly above the community college system average of 60.3 percent.

For a copy of the full HECC report, see Nancy Mayberry in the president's office.

College chosen to participate in national foreign languages project

GCC is one of 15 colleges nationally to be selected by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to participate in its "Improving Foreign Language Education at Community Colleges" project. The project is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and is being conducted in cooperation with the Community College Humanities Association.

As a participating college, GCC will benefit from the following foreign language education improvement activities:

- Participation in AACC's National Foreign Language Education Confer-

ence I in Washington, DC, March 7-10;

- Mentoring services before, during and for an eight-month period after the National Conference to assist the college in developing and implementing an action plan to improve foreign language education on campus; and

- Participation in AACC's National Foreign Language Education Conference II in San Antonio, TX, October 27.

The college will also receive the project's specially prepared newsletter, *Improving Foreign Language Education News*, and will share the national publicity generated

by the project. The mentor chosen to work with GCC will also visit the campus at least once.

The proposal was written by Associate Academic Dean **Joan Ibish** and **Charlotte Gifford**, the college's only full-time language professor, who teaches both French and Spanish.

"We are thrilled to receive this recognition and support," says Joan, "because this is an area in which we have really needed strengthening. We want GCC to become a model for innovative foreign language programs on a smaller scale."

College makes plans for new Welcoming Center

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tem which is part of the Title III project. He will continue to develop the academic schedule and to produce the various enrollment and other institutional reports required of the college. With this change in his responsibility, Larry will be able to provide all of us with important data about our students' progress at GCC and after they leave—data that will assist us in designing programs and activities that better lead to student success.

Don Brown will spend more time on campus as he picks up some of Larry's former responsibilities in records. Don, as director of records and admissions, will also be responsible for registration procedures beginning this spring. To help out in the admissions and financial aid offices, Don and **Jane Abbott** will share a new assistant director, who will work part-time in financial aid and will also assist Don and **Herb Hentz** recruiting off-campus. **Bob Keir**, who oversees all this, will have a new title: dean of enrollment and community services, which better reflects what he has been doing for some time.

I am also pleased to announce two other title changes, effective immediately. **Carol Letson** has been appointed to the permanent position of director of the library/learning resources center, and **Valorie Knowlton** has been named director of safety and security.

Prospects for an increase in our state appropriation for FY94 continue to look encouraging, as does a sub-

stantial increase in federal dollars for job-training at community colleges in the coming years. As we revise our mission and goals statements as the first step in developing a new strategic plan, we recognize that these are no ordinary times. I believe that we will be required to make significant changes as an educational institution during the remainder of this decade if we are to be successful in helping our regional economy transform itself and in preparing our students for the knowledge-based and global challenges that face us as a nation. At the same time, we want to be certain that we

do not lose the special "small college" characteristics of GCC that many of us believe are the reason for our success. We will need hard thinking about our curriculum and our support services; additional high quality faculty; and updated equipment in our classrooms, labs, studios, and offices. The task will not be easy. But we at GCC have always been strong as an institution because we share a clear set of institutional values and work together as a learning community. Over the next few years, I look forward with excitement to meeting these challenges with you.

—President Kay Sloan

Mutual funds now available under state deferred compensation plan

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Deferred Compensation Plan now offers mutual funds as an investment option. Seven different funds which are categorized within four different strategies were selected. A thorough and competitive process was used to look for funds with a historically high rate of return, low volatility, sound investment strategies and stable fund management. The funds selected and their categories are:

1. Conservative Risk Funds
 - a. Fidelity Balanced Fund
 - b. Vanguard Wellington Fund
2. Moderate Risk Funds
 - a. AIM Charter Fund
 - b. Fidelity Growth and Income Fund
3. Higher Risk Funds
 - a. AIM Weingarten
 - b. Fidelity Growth Company Fund
4. Socially Responsible Fund
 - a. Calvert Social Investment Fund

Deferred compensation offers employees a way to save for retirement years with pre-tax dollars. Employees pay no current federal and state income taxes on the amounts they contribute or on their investment earnings. As a voluntary benefit for a state employee, one is allowed to set aside a minimum of \$20 per month to a maximum of 25 percent of gross or \$625 (whichever is less).

For more information on this program, contact **John Salerno** at (413) 731-9833 or 1-800-732-3760.